

## GI SPECIAL 2#30

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



**BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**

U.S. soldiers in Falluja, west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, February 18, 2004. (Ali Jasim/Reuters)

**Thousands Of Armed  
Demonstrators Demand  
Elections Now:  
Nasiriyah Local Ballots Prove Bush Lies**

By Yaroslav Trofimov, Wall St. Journal 2.18.04

Nasiriyah, Iraq

**THE U.S.-LED Coalition Provisional Authority has said direct elections for a new Iraqi government are impossible in coming months, and a United Nations delegation last week indicated that it holds similar views.**

**But the outcomes of recent local elections in southern Iraq, where Shiite Muslims predominate, so far have failed to validate U.S. fears that such voting would bring about an Iran-style theocracy—and possibly incite civil war.** What we've found is that they haven't selected extremists," said Tobin Bradley, political adviser for the CPA's office here.

The experiment with democracy in small towns around Nasiriyah, however, has led to new tensions between Shiite religious movements and occupation officials. **Prominent clerics have stepped up demands to hold rapid elections for the Nasiriyah-based provincial administration, whose current members are appointed by the CPA.**

**Thousands of demonstrators demanding such a poll have marched toward the CPA's fortress-like compound, brandishing assault rifles and rocket-propelled-grenade launchers, and chanting anti- American slogans; organizers now threaten a civil-disobedience campaign.**

*"The occupation forces came to this country saying they'll bring democracy— but now they have become the main obstacle to democracy," said one of the protest organizers, Aws al Khafaji, the regional head of the Sadr Office, one of the main Shiite religious movements in Iraq. Recent elections in places like Battha, a ramshackle town north of Nasiriyah, have only whetted the local appetite for self-rule.*

**"We have noticed from experience that the local councils that were elected work much better than the appointed ones,"** said Mohammed al Nassiri, a local leader of the Iraqi Hezbollah, one of many Shiite Islamic parties that sprang up after the war.

**The CPA is resisting calls for provincial elections so far, fearing that such a vote here will set a precedent nationwide.** Yet officials acknowledge that outcomes at the local level are encouraging. The ballot in Battha was the ninth municipal election across this province in the Shiite heartland. "What you see after elections are councils that are much more secular and younger," said the CPA's Mr. Bradley. "Voters want knowledgeable people who can give them services."

Councils created through elections ended up with fewer tribal sheikhs and Islamic clerics than the temporary administrations run by local notables chosen by the U.S. Marine Corps, which controlled this area in the first months after the war, he added.

The election in Battha wasn't the one- person/one-vote kind that is acceptable under international standards. It was, however, the most democratic experience people here have seen in their lifetimes. It also was much more inclusive than the complicated system of prescreened caucuses that the CPA plans to use this summer.

In the absence of a reliable census, the CPA in Nasiriyah followed a suggestion by Shiite leaders and used the oil-for-food ration list as the electoral roll. The list counted families, not individuals, so every family got a vote when a male member appeared with a ration card. To encourage female participation, the card allowed another vote when a woman showed up (62 women did in Battha).

About 1,200 families, out of 4,000 on the village's ration list, took part in the vote. They selected 10 councilmen—a doctor, three school teachers and several businessmen—from a roster of 34 candidates. No violence was reported.

"These are the seeds of freedom," retired soldier Mohammed Hussein said. "This was our first taste of democracy, and I am so excited because I didn't expect people to turn up in such numbers," said Ibrahim Jabar Hassan, a primary-school teacher who wore a checkered headscarf and dark sunglasses. "I hope after this we'll be able to elect a national government and finally have security."

Despite the protests organized by people like Mr. Khafaji, **John Bourne, the British head of the CPA in Nasiriyah, is comforted by a belief that Iraqi Shiites, who suffered under Saddam Hussein's regime, aren't ready to shed blood over electoral timetables--at least not yet.**

**"They appreciate that getting violent about elections actually undermines their argument" Mr. Bourne said. "But, plainly, there will come a time when frustration will set in."**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

### **U.S. Soldier Killed in Accident**

BAGDHAD, Iraq - An American soldier died Friday in a traffic accident close to the central Iraqi town of Balad, the U.S. military command said.

The soldier was from Task Force Ironhorse.

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### **"Bulgarian Soldier In Iraq Shoots At, Wounds Mate"**

19 February Novinite.com Sofia, Bulgaria

Private Zhivko Dolashkov, a soldier from Bulgaria's second Iraq unit in Karbala has accidentally shot at and wounded his mate Georgi Milev on the territory of the camp Kilo. Dolashkov shot with his Makarov gun.

The wounded soldier has been rushed to a hospital in Baghdad. His life is out of danger. Later in the evening Bulgaria's Defense Minister Nikolay Svinarov said the wounded soldier might be transported to a hospital that is not situated in Iraq.

The accident occurred at about 4 p.m. Bulgarian time. The commander of the battalion has ordered an investigation into the case.

In August 2003 Private Pavlina Marinova Landeva from Bulgaria's first peacekeeping battalion in Iraq shot herself as she used her weapon inattentively. The injury was not a dangerous one.

**Bulgaria imposed penalties over the shooting incident and despite the fact that Landeva is said to have caused the wound herself, the General Staff of the Bulgarian army demanded that other soldiers should also be held responsible for the injury.** Landeva and another two soldiers from the unit were recalled back to Bulgaria.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Welcome To Bush's Imperial War**

February 20, 2004 By Chris Brummitt, Associated Press

TIKRIT, Iraq — The new arrivals sat mostly in silence, watching the dangers flash by on the laptop: a Humvee destroyed by a roadside bomb, a mound of shrapnel-laced plastic explosives, a booby-trapped poster of Saddam Hussein.

**“People should make peace with their family members because they might not get to see them again,” said Sgt. Andrew Antolik, from Dyersville, Iowa. “Stuff happens out here. People get killed.”**

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### **“Were We There To Take Over A Country...For Oil?” How A Marine Quit The Imperial War**

By JEFF SCHMERKER Staff writer, 02/11/2004: (The Mountaineer)

When Staff Sgt. Jimmy Massey joined the Marines, he thought he had found his niche. Trained as a sharpshooter, Massey admits he became “the ultimate war machine — all blood and guts.”

One day, that came to an abrupt halt. Stationed in Kuwait several months before the attack in Iraq occurred, Massey saw events unfold in Operation Iraqi Freedom from day one.

Massey did his part to secure the country and faced the minimal opposition he said U.S. forces encountered during the early days.

**But, after just a few weeks in combat, Massey said he came to the realization he could no longer be an effective Marine. He was haunted by the knowledge that U.S. forces, himself included, were killing civilians, not terrorists.**

Massey flew from California to Kuwait the day before President George Bush gave his 2002 State of the Union address. The night of the address, Massey stayed up late, his ears tuned to the BBC channel as Bush made the case for war.

When orders came to invade in the third week in March, Massey stayed up all night packing his gear and readying the troops. When the sun came up and reveille was called, Massey said he remembered thinking: “Today would be a good day to die.”

Early the next morning, Massey and his 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Weapons Company, drove over that berm and into war. Massey’s company leapfrogged across Iraq, always headed north. Occasionally they encountered light small-arms fire and mortar attacks, but little to pause over.

“My whole mental thought,” he says, “is it’s just a good day to die. I did not want to die, but it’s an honor amongst Marines if they die in combat.”

Massey, 30, was born in Pearland, Texas, a suburb of Houston. When he was 6, his father picked him up in Hendersonville and drove him to Florida. Police were on the lookout for him and caught up with him in Florida, pulling his 18-wheeler over.

Jimmy lay in the sleeping cab of the truck, unaware of what was going on and unaware of what was about to happen. As a police officer would later tell him, as his dad jumped down from the truck, he reached for a weapon. Police shot him dead.

Out of high school, Massey spent a few months in community college but dropped out. He joined the Marines, he said, because they were the toughest soldiers in the world.

He was on his way to a career in the armed forces. After nine years, he became a recruiter and was stationed in Waynesville. His job was to sign up three young men and women a month; sometimes that meant he had to court 500.

On April 15, 2002, Massey was handed orders saying when his duty as a recruiter ended in October he was to report to Twentynine Palms, Calif. He knew he’d be going to war — either Afghanistan or Iraq.

Iraq it was. Massey was given a month personal leave and then reported back to Twentynine Palms. He was in charge of a combined anti-armor team comprising machine gunners, missile men and scout snipers.

Massey is a sniper platoon sergeant, and his job in Iraq, he said, was to erect roadblocks and search locals for guns and munitions. It was a difficult task, he said: Go into a town, guns blazing one day, then turn around and play policeman, handing out candy to kids the next. The transition, he said, that's what was tough.

There were some close calls, especially as the convoy made its way toward Baghdad. In one skirmish, Massey heard a bullet fly by just a few feet from his head. In another, he could see bullets scuff up dirt right in front of his feet, just like in the movies. One day, he found bullet holes in his truck.

"We were led to believe they were going to put up a tremendous fight," said Massey, "but we basically walked into the country and took over. It was like lambs to the slaughter."

The march to Baghdad took just two weeks. One day, on the outskirts of town, Massey was ordered to set up a roadblock. His company's six Humvees were staggered in parallel lines along each side of the road, splayed out slightly to face oncoming traffic. Soldiers aimed at oncoming cars, but also toward civilian buildings alongside the road.

Sharpshooters hid back a ways. Vehicles approached the roadblock and were searched. Too often, vehicles approached the roadblock but didn't stop. Soldiers fired warning shots toward the vehicles. If that didn't work, said Massey, "then we lit it up." Some vehicles didn't stop, said Massey, because the drivers might have fashioned themselves kamikazes, though none of the vehicles Massey searched were ever found to have explosives in them the way suicide bombers will often pack their cars. Other vehicles were stolen, their drivers running from the law. Other no-stops were pure mystery.

In one suburban roadblock, Massey and company were set up when a red Kia Spectra sped toward them at about 45 mph. Soldiers sighted the car and fired a warning volley above it, but still the car came. Soldiers aimed at the car and fired with their full force, said Massey.

The car made it past the first two Humvees. Massey was in the second row. For just an instant, he said, he made eye contact with the driver. The Kia had four men in it. Massey fired and Marines around him joined in. The Kia came to a rest right in front of him, three of the four men shot dead.

It's that sight of the driver which has haunted Massey all these months.

Marines pulled the three bodies out of the car and threw them alongside the road for Iraqi medical crews to retrieve. The survivor, the front seat passenger, was wailing and screaming. His brother had been the driver. He was injured but taken to the curb to await medical attention.

"He looked up at me and said, 'Why did you kill my brother? We didn't do anything.'"

**Massey came to believe that most of the time when he shot to kill, he was killing civilians. What he saw disturbed him. On April 15, in Karbala, Massey went to his**

**commanding officer. He was depressed, he told the officer. He was not an effective leader anymore, he said.**

"I'm having issues," he told his commanding officer. "I'm having a hard time." The commanding officer sent him to a Navy psychiatrist. The drive to the doctor took him three hours. The session, 30 minutes. Massey was feeling normal feelings, the doctor said.

"You have every right to feel the way you feel," the doctor told him.

But did he, Massey wondered? Civilians might be sickened by the killing, but a Marine is not supposed to be. "I was the ultimate war machine, all blood and guts. I was embarrassed. I was supposed to be able to handle it."

The psychiatrist asked Massey if he wanted to kill himself. He didn't. The psychiatrist asked Massey if he wanted to hurt himself or other individuals. He didn't.

**The psychiatrist diagnosed Massey as depressed and suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. He recommended Massey leave the battlefield immediately. He wrote his report and sealed it in a manila envelope.**

Massey returned to his base and handed the envelope to his commanding officer, then went to bed.

In the morning Massey was called into the commanding officer's room. He was not cut out to be an officer in the Marines, the superior told him.

**"He told me, 'You're a poor leader,' 'You're faking it,' 'You're a conscientious objector,' 'You're a wimp,'" said Massey. "You don't respond to that. You just stand there and take it. But my sanity was not worth the U.S. Marine Corps."**

Massey went back to his bunk and packed up. He handed in his documents and his papers. All weapons were taken from him even though the psychiatrists said he was not a threat to himself or other Marines.

He was sent to an abandoned school in Karbala and told to wait there. Two days later, a car came and picked him up.

The trip south, back to LSA-7, took three days and routed him through every town the Americans had destroyed on their way north. Massey spent two weeks at LSA-7, "sleeping the whole time," he said, before he was taken to Kuwait and later to California.

**"I can't blame the military for sending me home," he said. What he does blame them for is taking his weapons even though he was being sent on a dangerous trip across southern Iraq. Before he left, an officer told him there was a 90-percent chance his convoy would be attacked.**

**"It's like," he said, "they were trying to punish me."**

In California, Massey's medical history was put before a review board. Two camps argued over his future. One group thought Massey should be given a medical

retirement. Another thought he could continue to serve in a limited capacity. Massey told a doctor he was sick and the only way to cure his sickness was to be released from duty.

Massey drove to Palm Springs and paid \$200 for a half-hour session with a private psychiatrist, who reconfirmed what the original doctor had said.

He then went to see a respected civilian pastor who was a World War II veteran and a former clinical psychologist and told him what happened.

“Am I a conscientious objector?” asked Massey. No, said the pastor.

Had Massey been termed an objector, he could have gone to jail, he said. There arose questions about disability and retirement payments, so Massey hired a lawyer, the same one who defended American soldiers after the Mai Lai attack in Vietnam. On Nov. 14, orders came that he was discharged on a medical retirement. Within 24 hours, Massey was on the road home.

Back when he was waiting to leave Kuwait, Massey phoned a friend in Waynesville, Jackie Grooms. A few days later, waylaid at an airport in Germany, he called her again to say he was on his way home.

Upon his release from the armed forces, he drove straight from California to Haywood County. He asked Grooms to marry him, rented an apartment at Lake Junaluska and was hired as a sales manager at Rent-A-Center in Clyde.

He quit dipping tobacco — in fact he quit almost every habit he picked up after 12 years in the military. He’s started a new life now — one without the Marines.

“With the events that happened over in Iraq,” says Massey now, “it is a constant struggle, day by day, just remembering the events. It never leaves you. You never forget about it.” The image of that driver, and his brother wailing alongside the road, he said, is burned into his mind.

“Some of the civilians that were killed,” he said, “you just never forget about it.”

While Massey does not question the duty of the Marine Corps, he does question the very foundation of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Marines are trained to do one thing, and that is to meet the enemy on the battlefield,” he said. “When you don’t know who the enemy is, you don’t know whether that person you just shot was actually the enemy. All of them.”

Massey thinks his platoon could have been responsible for as many as 30 civilian deaths. “What you can ask is, were they combatants or non-combatants,” he said. “That is a way to phrase it so people don’t get a squeamish feeling. I would say 75 percent of all the individuals we came in contact with were non-combatants.”

In California, before he even left for Kuwait, Massey’s company was trained to shut down oil fields. Why, he wonders. What kind of premeditated war would train soldiers to secure oil fields?



"The people in Iraq were definitely suffering," he said. "And there is no question in my mind Saddam was a dictator. But the way we did it, just going in there and invading, it raises questions. Was it for oil? Or was it for humanitarian reasons?"

The British spent decades trying to rule the country and failed, said Massey. Why do Americans think they can do in two years what the Brits could never do?

**"It just leaves a question in my mind: Were we there to help them or were we there to take over a country for our own personal gain? i.e., oil."**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## **Homebound Reserve Soldiers Say "They've Had Enough Of The Military"**

February 20, 2004, By Jim Krane, Associated Press

**The moment a U.S. soldier pines for is saying goodbye to Iraq, where a brutal insurgency has confounded troops who thought they'd be hailed as liberators. On bases across Iraq, stores cater to that longing by selling coffee mugs emblazoned with the words "Happiness is seeing Iraq in my rearview mirror."**

"I'm floating on cloud nine," said 25-year-old Staff Sgt. Joe Luna of Visalia, Calif. **"It was rough. It seemed like a race to get to Baghdad, then we ended up going backward,"** Luna said as his unit piled green duffel bags near a tent at the Army's Camp Anaconda near Balad, Iraq.

**It's been a long wait. Soldiers spoke of the frustration of counting the days to an expected departure only to be told they would have to stay on.** All said they wanted to hug parents and children, sleep without being woken by explosions, or stroll without a rifle.

The weeks before departure are rife with fears, especially about being killed.

**Camp Anaconda is regularly pounded by rebel mortars. Since June, dozens of U.S. soldiers on the base have been wounded and a few have been killed by the shrapnel-spewing blasts.**

"I want to get drunk," blurted out 26-year-old Spc. Yvette Inocencio of Miami, waiting with friends from her unit, the 864th Engineer Battalion, for their flight. "We're always sitting here worried about mortars, since we're so close to going home," Inocencio said.

Another soldier, Spc. Charles Guess, 21, of Springdale, Ark., said he was driving a bulldozer last month when a mortar blast sent him six feet into the air, dislocating his shoulder and tearing a rotator cuff.

**Inocencio voiced another universal worry. Even though the soldiers have loaded their bags onto pallets to be hoisted onto a C-130 transport plane, and even though their names have been called and their redeployment orders checked and reconfirmed, the Army could still reverse course.**

**"This is the worst part," Inocencio said as her group waited to fly out of Camp Anaconda, headed to Spain and then to Fort Lewis, Wash. "Things always seem to happen just as you're getting ready to leave."**

**Many soldiers heading home, like Luna, say they've had enough of the military. "I'm going to transition to civilian life in three months," Luna said, rubbing his hand over his shaven head. "You get a lot better picture of the military when you're deployed. It's been an enlightening experience."**

Before boarding the plane, the 35 soldiers made their way through the Army's version of customs: an "amnesty booth" where they are ordered to discard pornography, alcohol or unauthorized weapons. In the discard bin were a few belts of machine gun rounds.

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## **How Army Officials Murdered Three Pilots**

*(New York Daily News, February 20, 2004)*

**A "computer glitch" that Army officials were aware of but failed to fix led to three pilots—two British and one American—being killed in Iraq by friendly fire from the Patriot missile system, the CBS television program "60 Minutes" will report Sunday. Several weapons experts will tell correspondent Ed Bradley that the Army was aware that the missile system could mistake friendly aircraft for enemy missile fire.**

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## **British Soldiers Warned About DU; But Not U.S. Soldiers**

Charles Jenks, attorney at law, President of the Core Group, Traprock Peace Center  
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**The British Ministry of Defence has issued cards to troops deployed to Iraq warning that they may have exposed to depleted uranium dust and offering uranium testing.**

(See [http://www.traprockpeace.org/du\\_mod\\_warning\\_cards.html](http://www.traprockpeace.org/du_mod_warning_cards.html) for the text of the cards, downloadable photocopies of the cards (doc and pdf formats) as well as international commentary on the developing controversy.)

Why are not Iraqi citizens warned of their exposure to uranium dust and offered tests?

**Why are US soldiers not so warned or offered such tests?**

Why isn't the US cleaning up the environmental contamination?

Why is the US still using DU munitions?

Why is the US major media (as opposed to major media in other countries) mostly mum about depleted uranium use by the US military?

**This in light of a January study that found US soldiers who are still contaminated with depleted uranium 12 years after the end of Gulf War I**

<http://currents.ucsc.edu/03-04/01-19/uranium.html> and news that a British veteran won a hotly contested disability appeal due to his contamination with DU.

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/schott\\_12feb04.html](http://www.traprockpeace.org/schott_12feb04.html)

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## Myers The Liar

**(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: Racist Myers denounces Iraq as being inherently violent:)**

February 20, 2004, By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer & 2.19.04 By Will Dunham

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, also said the current mobilization of more than 180,000 Guard and reserve personnel does not constitute a misuse of those people.

**“It does an absolute disservice to our Guard and reserve to think they don’t want to serve,” Myers insisted. “They are proud to serve.” *(For truth about that, see the next story.)***

“Try to turn a country that has not experienced democracy into some sort of democracy, and get them to buy into that in a place that is inherently violent,” Myers added. **(The Pentagon is the most “inherently violent” place on the face of the earth, so Myers has just explained why the management there hates democracy so much. As for Iraq, violence is the sane, rational, appropriate response when a foreign Imperial nation invades and occupies your country.)**

## **GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

## **Deceived & Betrayed--Again**

February 9, 2004, From <http://www.bringthemhomenow.com/> (Check it out.)

My fiancé is stationed in Iraq (Camp Anaconda to be exact). **Several times throughout his time there (March will be a year) he has been told they will be sent home soon. Recently they were told that they would return to the States in March.** We were so excited to hear this news that he would finally be home soon. They made it seem that this time they were really going to come home. **Well, guess again--now they get a letter telling them they are going to be extended until June.**

Well, our family including him cannot take it any more, it is time that they all come home. We have two small children (ages 4 and 2) and they need their father. **I never imagined that I would ever have to sit and console my 4-year-old son while he sits and cries his eyes out because he wants his daddy.**

**We realize being a military family that there are times when we could be separated for a long period of time, but we have had enough this war is not only causing people to lose their loved ones but it is tearing families apart and it HAS to end. I will not be voting for George Bush and my fiancé WILL NOT be re-enlisting, I am disappointed in our government and the military!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Thank you for your time and support,

A concerned and torn citizen

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## **Anti-War AWOL Soldier Asking For Asylum In Canada; Army Says It Won't "Search Him Out"**

By Patrick O'Neill, The Independent February 18, 2004 & Canadian Broadcasting Corporation 2.19.04

Before he went AWOL to Canada, U.S. Army specialist Jeremy Hinzman led a somewhat double life. As a soldier in the 82nd Airborne, Hinzman, 25, never knew when he might get the call to go fight in a war he didn't believe in. While many of his army peers were hanging out in Fayetteville's seedy bars, Hinzman and his wife and son would spend many weekends in Raleigh, where they would grocery shop at Whole Foods and spend time with progressive friends.

With Sept. 11 came Pres. Bush's promise of vengeance, and for Hinzman the realization that he may have to fire his M-4 at real people instead of targets. Hinzman had always told himself that if he were in combat, he would "aim high" and not try to kill anyone. In his heart of hearts, however, Hinzman said he knew such a plan was unrealistic.

So, last year, before his unit received orders to ship out to Afghanistan, Hinzman submitted a conscientious objector application to the army asking--not to be discharged--but to be assigned to a noncombatant role.

Despite the CO request, Hinzman was ordered to go to war. Once in Kandahar, Hinzman found out there was a price to pay for his beliefs. Word circulated among the troops that he had filed the CO claim, and Hinzman's first sergeant decided to make an example of the soldier who didn't want to fight. For more than eight months, Hinzman was assigned to KP, washing dishes in a mess hall 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

"It just made me bitter," Hinzman said. "I worked absurdly long hours for a long time. It was a lonely experience."

Officially, Hinzman said, he was not told he was being punished, but that's what it was, and he understood why the action was taken. "If you show, 'Oh, the guy who did this, his life is hell,' then people might hesitate or not do it."

During an interview regarding his CO application, Hinzman said he would defend his camp if it were under attack. His honesty killed his application. The army might recognize the CO claim of a soldier who would never fight, but not one who just wanted to pick and choose his battles. Hinzman withdrew his application when it was clear it would be denied.

Last July, Hinzman was back at Fort Bragg, and things started to improve. Still, the thought was always in the back of his mind that his unit would get the call to Iraq. When the call came on Dec. 20, Hinzman and his wife, Nga Nguyen, consulted with their families and decided it was time to leave the country. As an army deserter, Hinzman can never return legally to the U.S. unless he's ready to face a court martial and likely prison term.

**Sgt. Pam Smith, a spokesperson for the 82nd Airborne based at Fort Bragg, N.C., said Hinzman could be arrested in the U.S., and would be put on a national database.**

**But she said the army won't search him out.**

**"We don't have time to go and track down people who go [absent without leave]," she said. "We're fighting a war."**

In Canada, Hinzman hooked up with Toronto immigration lawyer Jeffrey House, who is helping the couple apply for refugee status. Since Hinzman could be imprisoned for his stance, he has a legitimate "fear of persecution," one of the requirements to receive refugee status, House said. "I believe that he would basically be punished for his conscience, for his religious and political beliefs. I don't believe that his conscientious objector application was dealt with in any sort of reasonable way."

**"On a practical level," Hinzman's chances of remaining in Canada are excellent, House said. "I don't think Jeremy will ever be sent to the U.S."**

**Hinzman also has public opinion on his side. While U.S. citizens strongly support the Iraq war, the large majority of Canadians agree with Hinzman that the war is "contrary to international law," House said. "There's a lot of sympathy for him here."**

**House says there is no precedent for Canada deporting war resisters, and the U.S. is not likely to want Hinzman back. Since an article appeared in the Toronto Globe and Mail on Feb. 7, House said he has received dozens of calls from people offering money and support for Hinzman. "He's kind of a poster boy, and the question is will there be more?" House said.**

For her part, Nguyen, 31, says she's now just glad that her husband won't be going to Iraq. **Life as a military wife has been riddled with anxiety during the war on terrorism, Nguyen said. Wives would watch TV news reports and read The Fayetteville Observer every day to find out if anyone from Fort Bragg had died.**

"They would list names, and me being a military wife, that was always constantly in the back of my head even though I tried not to dwell on it," she said.

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## **Government Wants Eternal War: U.S. Expects Long-Term Troop Stay in Iraq**

By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer Feb. 20. 2004

**WASHINGTON - American officials say U.S. forces will be needed in Iraq long after a sovereign government is restored this summer, but they have yet to work out the terms of a continued presence.**

Senior Pentagon officials said Thursday they were confident that the Iraqis, once given political control, would agree U.S. troops should stay. **But some outside the government question whether that would hold true once an elected Iraqi government took over.**

**U.S. troops also will be engaged in combat as long as the insurgency remains active. (And the resistance will fight until foreign Imperial invaders are kicked out of their country. They are right to do so.)**

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## **Army Makes Exceptions To Anthrax Shots Rule**

*(Hartford Courant, February 17, 2004)*

The Army has sent to Iraq at least four soldiers who have refused to be vaccinated against anthrax, despite the Pentagon's long-held insistence that the vaccine is mandatory for all service members assigned to areas of combat or probable terrorism. The deployments by base commanders in Indiana, Kentucky, New York and Wisconsin have led Pentagon critics to question the fairness of penalties meted out earlier to scores of service members who refused the shots.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **The Insurgency Threat In Southern Iraq**

By Tim Ripley 20 February 2004 [www.janes.com](http://www.janes.com)

JTIC assesses the insurgent threat in southern Iraq with an analysis of the weapons and tactics available to the resistance and tribal militias in the region.

The weapon of choice for the insurgents is the roadside improvised explosive device (IED) or the car/truck bomb.

**In Basra itself, some four to five IED incidents are now occurring every week. Of these, only one attack a month is usually successful.**

British military sources describe the insurgents as being highly organised cells that operate in small numbers. **They employ sophisticated reconnaissance efforts to identify targets and possible attack methods. Insurgent scouts or scouting teams have been arrested or spotted working around most major coalition military bases or key infrastructure targets throughout the British divisional area.**

It is also believed that the insurgents have a small number of expert bombmakers who are involved in designing and mass-producing IEDs. **Four different types of IEDs have been identified to date, including mechanically triggered devices, under vehicle magnetic devices, and electronically operated and radio controlled roadside devices. Iraqi insurgents have also developed sophisticated methods to camouflage IEDs to prevent discovery.**

**At least five different types of firing mechanisms have been identified in Iraq by British Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) experts. Explosive elements include**

**`necklaces' of grenades, PE4A plastic explosives, and Claymore type shrapnel charges**

The main source of explosives for the insurgents is the huge ammunition depots abandoned by the Iraqi military, which are now open to looting. There are at least 120 abandoned major ammunition storage sites in the country, as well as thousands of minor sites containing war debris. In the region occupied by British troops there are some 16 suspected sites containing more than 10,000 items. Eight of the sites are suspected of containing more than 100,000 items and one is believed to hold more than 200,000 items.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**What An Army In Rebellion Looks Like:**

### **Army In Germany Forced To Drop Plan To Watch Dissidents In Ranks After Public Protests By Soldiers**

New York Times **8.10.73**, By Craig R. Whitney

Bonn-Aug. 9

**The United States Army command in Heidelberg, in its first official response to complaints from within its ranks about widespread activities by military intelligence, announced today that a program of “counterdissidence” by the Eighth Infantry Division had been “rescinded” because it was “inappropriate.”**

The rescinded document was “struck from the books—swept away,” according to Army spokesmen in Heidelberg. **It had been made public by specialist Wayne Sparks, 21 years old of Houston, who said he believed the plan stifled the Constitutional rights of soldiers in the 13,000-man division, whose headquarters are at Bad Kreuznach, Rhineland-Palatinate.**

**Specialist Sparks, interviewed today, said that he had not been told of the rescinding of the program, but added that neither had he been harassed or even questioned by his commanding officer about making it public.**

**“That’s really cool,” he said, when informed of the latest action.**

The division had ordered its intelligence section to note the names, ranks, units and races of participants in a variety of activities including such seemingly innocuous ones as writing letters of complain to congressmen and such serious ones as acts of sabotage or vandalism.



The statement today by the higher headquarters in Heidelberg said "There have been reports of equipment damage within the command, for example, in May 1973."

**One of the American agents, Specialist 4 John M. McDougal of the 527<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion in Kaiserslautern, charged at a news conference there on Tuesday that "Army intelligence is out of control."**

**He accused the headquarters intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Harold R. Aaron, of having ordered an intensified "offensive counterintelligence" program throughout West Germany this summer.**

The Heidelberg statement today appeared to deny this charge at least as far as "underground activities" within the Army itself were concerned. General Aaron has made himself unavailable to the press to answer any of the allegations.

(Comment: Not a "Forward Observation?" Old stuff from the old days? Keep this army in Iraq another six months and find out.)

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.** Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **The U.S. War Of Terrorism: The Countryside Killings**

**AUTHORS' NOTE:** While writing the essay, "[Terror by Another Name.](#)" I realized that we apply this most potent term in the American political vocabulary very unevenly. We define terrorism as tactics used against us, but deny that it applies to our own actions taken to purposely and unmistakably instill terror. Our denial is compounded daily when the U.S. government promotes and the media report news from a "War on Terrorism." Our "War of Terrorism" deserves its due.

By **MIKE FERNER** ABU HISHMA, IRAQ.

Mike Ferner spent the month of February, 2003 in Baghdad and Basra, with Voices in the Wilderness, a Chicago-based campaign to nonviolently resist economic and military warfare against Iraq. **He is a member of Veterans for Peace** and works for the

Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy. He can be reached at:  
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02/17/04: This is the farm village that Cliff Kindy, leader of the Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT), refers to as the "razor wire place." It's actually a small town, around half of which the U.S. Army has unrolled concertina razor wire, and completed the effect with a checkpoint and curfew. Six CPT members are returning for an update from the residents on the latest U.S. raids and detentions.

**On the 30-mile trip from Baghdad, the city falls away as we drive into open countryside. Approaching Abu Hishma, we pass a small house about 150 feet from the road that is now a pile of rubble. Our interpreter, Sattar, said the house was destroyed because "it was too close to the road and coalition forces destroy it."**

We are welcomed warmly by Sheik Mohammed Abbas Alawa's oldest son, Shalon. He is nearly fluent in English, learned while studying Recent U.S. History at the University of Baghdad. Sheik Alawa enters momentarily. After eating, drinking tea, and further discussion, fabric cushion mats and blankets are brought in for bedtime. Sheik Alawa makes sure everyone is comfortable, leans his AK-47 against the wall next to his pillow, and retires.

The next day begins early.

Cliff says this is a farming village, but it is unlike any farm or village I've seen in the U.S. In this place north of Baghdad, a farm village is something completely different. The homes are much smaller. A few have postage stamp-sized yards, but in most cases lawns are replaced by barnyards--meaning that the chickens, goats, cows, manure piles, and mud-hut outbuildings are literally a few steps out the back, or sometimes front, door. Mixed in with the animals and sheds are bundles of neatly stacked fruit tree prunings, dead cotton plant stalks, and other material that appears ready for the stove.

First stop on our Abu Hishma walking tour is ahead on the left, a victim of what the Glossary of Military Terms & Slang from the Vietnam War refers to as "H & I," or harassment and interdiction fire: "Random artillery (or aerial) bombardments used to deny the enemy terrain which they might find beneficial to their campaign; general rather than specific, confirmed military targets."

**An outline of a house foundation frames a perfectly-centered bomb crater 15 feet deep and 30 feet wide. Destroyed 10 days ago at 8:00 a.m., by a single bomb, the dwelling was home to a family of seven who miraculously were not there at the time. But the youngsters bring other evidence of the blast to our attention.**

**One of their pals, Hahmed Fadhil, wears a gauze patch taped over the right eye he said he lost when the bomb exploded. Two boys poke a stick at an orange and white cat that has achieved immortality for having died in a bombing. We're shown window frames in homes two blocks away, where cardboard replaces the glass reportedly shattered by the same explosion.**

A hundred feet up the lane, a smaller bomb crater is off to the side. Before we hear its story, we're distracted by six U.S. helicopter gunships roaring low overhead. They pass quickly.

We return to the cars and drive a short distance to our next stop, a slightly larger farmhouse on the edge of the village. It is the home of Yasseen Taha, a 33 year-old farmer who attended evening classes at the University of Baghdad's Islamic Studies program.

**On October 17, Yasseen's brother, Aziz, and his wife, Majida, were shot and killed by troops from Lt. Col. Sassaman's base, according to Yasseen's uncle, Muhanna Azazzal, who spoke with us.**

On that day at about 4:00 p.m., U.S. troops and tanks stationed at the former Iraqi airfield three kilometers south of the Taha home, came from that direction toward the village, "firing randomly," said Azazzal.

Yasseen's younger brother, Aziz, a fourth-year student in the University of Baghdad's English Studies department, was struck by one of the bullets and mortally wounded. Yasseen's wife, Majida, knelt to help her brother-in-law and was hit by a bullet and killed instantly. She left three children, the youngest 15 days old. Aziz died within two hours, but in the meantime, Azazzal said, U.S. soldiers surrounded the scene, telling neighbors to keep back and denying Aziz any first-aid.

Aziz' sister, Asmaa, said that she witnessed the carnage that day. Seeing her brother shot and bleeding to death, she began to cry hysterically. An American soldier responded by firing his rifle into the ground near Aziz' dying body "to mock my grief," she said.

**Just then, we witnessed what looked like another H & I incident. Two helicopters flew low over the village, circled, and fired machine gun bursts into an open pasture a couple hundred meters away. "They do it just to scare us," one villager shrugged, or as a former Iraqi soldier later told me, "we used to call it 'showing the teeth.'"**

**Muhanna Azazzal resumed his narrative. Ten days after the October double murder, U.S. troops arrested Yasseen. Soldiers had been attacked in the vicinity, Azazzal explained, and Yasseen was a prime suspect, having just lost two family members to Army shootings. Three months later, the farmer from Abu Hishma still sits in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison, still denied visitors. Azazzal, his uncle, said he later heard from released detainees that Yasseen was accused of "terrorist acts."**

A rooster crows in the Taha farmyard. Chickens scratch in a small, neatly-fenced grass front yard. Three helicopter gunships roar overhead. In the dirt side yard are two red heifers, an earthen oven, a mud brick outhouse and piles of stacked brush. Several small Holstein dairy cows graze in a narrow, rich pasture just beyond the lane.

**Yasseen's uncle, Muhanna says with equal parts hurt, disappointment and anger in his voice, "soldiers that do these kinds of things don't deserve to be called Americans." Two more helicopters roar in from another direction. They circle a few hundred meters to the west and go on their way.**

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**CRAZY AS A SHIT-HOUSE RAT**



**No further comment necessary.  
(AP Photo/Andres Leighton)**

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## **Colin Powell Babbles Incoherently;**

Re Saddam Hussein:

**“There was no intention on his part not to have the intention to develop these weapons.” Powell on CNN 2.20.04**

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**Republican Panic;  
Rage From Below Pushes Politicians To  
Raise Taxes On Rich, Cut Taxes On Poor  
And Cut Defense Budget**

2.290.04 Wall St. Journal, By Jackie Calmes

On Tuesday, the Virginia Senate's Finance Committee passed the tax-increase plan of its chairman, Republican and onetime conservative Democrat John Chichester, which greatly upped the ante.

**Both the Senate's and the governor's plans would raise income taxes on those with higher incomes while cutting them for low-income residents; raise sales taxes and tobacco taxes, but cut food taxes; and provide estate-tax relief.**

**House Republican leaders, who initially opposed any tax increases, suddenly last Friday proposed a smaller package that would raise revenue by closing a raft of business tax breaks.** While many speculate that the House Republicans were punishing the business supporters of Gov. Warner and Sen. Chichester, the fact is that the House leaders' plan in effect conceded the need—and the likelihood—of higher taxes of some amount

SQUEEZE ON domestic spending has Republicans eyeing defense funds.

They're especially concerned for veterans' medical care, job training and education as Bush and conservatives demand near-freeze of domestic budget.

Veterans' care was an issue in a special Kentucky House election won by Democrats on Tuesday, and Vietnam veteran Sen. Kerry raises it against Bush.

Expecting Bush to seek post election supplemental funds for Iraq, Republicans in Congress weigh shifting fiscal 2005 defense funds—Bush seeks a 7% increase—to domestic needs. Then the later supplemental could be used to fill any defense gaps that arise. Another headache: Congress must raise the borrowing limit, perhaps by end of July. That would be fodder for attacks from Democrats, whose convention opens then.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **CIA Evacuating Afghan Posts**

*(Los Angeles Times, February 20, 2004, Pg. 1*

Confronting problems on two critical fronts, the CIA recently removed its top officer in Baghdad because of questions about his ability to lead the massive station there and **has closed a number of satellite bases in Afghanistan amid concerns about the country's deteriorating security situation**, according to U.S. intelligence sources.

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## **CLASS WAR NEWS**

ONE FOR OUR SIDE:

## Hospital That Tormented & Punished Poor Patients Loses Tax-Exempt Status

By Lucette Lagnado, Wall St. Journal 2.19.04

IN AN UNUSUAL MOVE that is sending shock waves across the hospital industry, Illinois authorities have revoked the tax-exempt status of a prominent Catholic hospital. **Their decision follows a determination by local tax authorities that the hospital wasn't a charitable institution, in part because of the way it treated needy patients.**

**As a result, Provena Covenant Medical Center, a hospital in Urbana with 270 licensed beds, will have to pay \$1 million in property taxes,** though the hospital says it plans to appeal. More worrisome to hospital-industry officials is the possibility that **not-for-profit hospitals nationwide could find their tax-free status as charitable institutions challenged on similar grounds.**

"That could turn the hospital system upside down," Rick Wade, the American Hospital Association spokesman, said in response to the Illinois decision.

The Illinois decision, dated Feb. 13 but communicated to Provena Covenant executives earlier this week, comes at a sensitive juncture for the hospital industry, which has been criticized over the past year for widespread, draconian methods of collecting bills from poor and uninsured patients. **In October, The Wall Street Journal reported on the aggressive collection tactics used by Provena Covenant and Carle Foundation Hospital, Champaign-Urbana's other main hospital, including collection agencies, law suits and even "body attachments," the legal term for the arrest of debtors who fail to show up in court.**

Hospitals must be held accountable for the substantial tax benefits they enjoy as not-for-profit institutions, said B. Richard Brown, a professor at the University of California in Los Angeles and an expert on the uninsured. **"If they are going to receive this tax subsidy" then they have to give back to the community in the form of charity care.**

The decision by the Illinois Department of Revenue in Springfield come after the Champaign County Board of Review, a three-member panel that reviews property-tax assessments, questioned the tax-exempt status of both major hospitals in Champaign-Urbana over the past two years. The Champaign board documented that the hospitals filed lawsuits and used other aggressive debt-collection tactics against patients who didn't pay their bills. **"Based upon the fact that they sue people—and we had been told by the Department of Revenue if you sue people you are not charitable—there was not a lot of room for ambiguity,"** said Stan Jenkins, a longtime member of the Champaign board.

***In its challenge to Provena Covenant's tax-free status, the Champaign board also argued that Provena had allowed a host of external for-profit entities to fulfill key hospital functions. The use of outside, for-profit companies has become fairly common across the not-for-profit hospital industry.***

Dan Stebbins, another member of the Champaign board, said the group would consider mounting a new challenge to Care Foundation, based on the Provena Covenant decision. **He seemed pleased that his panel might spark a nationwide movement to scrutinize hospitals' tax exemptions.**

**"A lot of these Catholic and other nonprofit hospitals started" in a different era, when the goal was improving health care, not the bottom line, he said.**

**(For more news about people fighting back see [www.socialistworker.org](http://www.socialistworker.org).)**

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**U.S. TERRORIST CHIEFS GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE:  
PLAN YEARS OF KILLING U.S. TROOPS IN IRAQ**



General Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff seen here with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld (L), said that how long US troops will remain in Iraq, was 'unknowable' (AFP/File/Stephen Jaffe)

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